

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Board of Selectmen

Town Hall
242 Union Street
Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S OPEN SESSION held on
Monday, February 7, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the H. Bernard Monahan Memorial Room,
Town Hall, 242 Union Street, Rockland, Massachusetts 02370.**

**ATTENDANCE: Chairman John R. Llewellyn, Vice-Chairman Lawrence J. Chaffee,
Larry J. Ryan, Louis U. Valanzola and Keven Pratt**

Mr. Llewellyn led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. MINUTES:

1. Executive Session – September 20, 2004

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve Executive Session Minutes of 9/20/04 not
to be released until all matters are settled**

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 5-0

2. Open Session – December 6, 2004

Motion: Mr. Pratt to approve Open Session Minutes of 12/6/04

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Reconsider Letter from Hanover re: County Retirement Assessment

Mr. Llewellyn – Mr. Plante is not here this evening; he's on vacation. Brad attended the meeting on Wednesday in Kingston with the County Treasurer and two members of the Retirement Board. This boils down to the State requirement that Public Retirement Plans must be fully funded by 2028. The County is looking to accomplish this two years early (2026). Just to recap a bit, the Town of Hanover send us a letter on 12/21/04 letting us know about the about the change from 2028 to 2026 and that it could cost the Town of Rockland \$59,000. Mr. Plante has recommended to us to at least consider joining with Hanover in sending a letter to the Plymouth County Retirement Board suggesting that this front loading (that is going to cost the Town of Rockland a substantial amount of money) is not a good idea at this time considering the fiscal crunch we have been in and remain in at this time. At least ask them to put it off until the fiscal

condition looks a little better. Mr. Valanzola – It looks like it's going to go up \$440,000 anyway. We are going to get hit with a pretty big increase. To try to push this up two years in a year like this is kind of ridiculous.

Motion: Mr. Valanzola support the letter from the Town of Hanover

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Opportunities Group, Inc. re: Community Development Block Grant

Wayne Darragh, Vice President of Community Opportunities Group, spoke regarding an opportunity that was proposed to the Town of Rockland. A recent set of grant plans that came out included \$100,000 to be set aside for the Town of Rockland. The Town of Rockland has been designated a mini entitlement community. What that means for the Town is that while other communities are out there competing for grant funds, the Town of Rockland, based on a analysis of certain statistics and demographic information, has been determined to be of such need the state is basically going to guarantee the Town of Rockland's grant funds going forward. For the past number of years the mini entitlement program has provided over \$600,000 to the designated communities of which there are sixteen (16). The memo I prepared for you is a description of the different types of activities that can be undertaken with these grant funds. Typically grant fund expenditures need to address the "national objective" which has been designated by HUD. Those objectives are to address the needs of low and moderate income households to prevent or eliminate slums and blighting conditions and the third is an urgent need which is something that might arise out of a natural disaster (typically nothing that you can plan for). Because the Town has not participated in the Community Development Block Grant in a recent time frame, the State saw it appropriate to set aside \$100,000 for the Town for this year. This way the Town can undertake planning grant opportunities and develop a plan going forward. Mr. Plante and I ran through a preliminary scope of what we think would be appropriate for the Town to do with this \$100,000. He had mentioned to me that the Town is lacking a ADA transition plan which would go through all of the community's facilities to determine where there are accessibility issues for disabled individuals. Another proposed study we discussed was a slums and blight inventory of the central business district. This could fund commercial rehabilitation of some of the structures, street improvements, sign and facade program, etc. When you do a slums and blight inventory the designation is good for five (5) years. The other proposed plan that we discussed was to look at the Town's housing needs. The grant application is due Tuesday, March 1st. We have a public hearing scheduled at your next scheduled meeting on the 22nd. We would certainly like to hear comments and questions at that time.

Mr. Llewellyn – the service you would provide would be to assist in writing this grant and securing those funds...is that correct? Mr. Darragh – yes. Mr. Llewellyn – from there who would we be working with to write these plans and develop Mr. Darragh –

C. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

1. Community Opportunities Group, Inc. re: Community Development Block Grant

The Town would have to undertake another procurement process basically pull together a list of proposals or requests for qualifications and issue that under a 30B process to procure those planning services. I'm hoping that my firm has the opportunity to compete for that process also. Mr. Llewellyn – By accepting this \$100,000 in grants, is the Town obligated to spend any of its own funds? Mr. Darragh – There is no requirement for matching funds under this program. Mr. Valanzola – Asked about the \$6,000.00 – is that just a one time or a retainer. Mr. Darragh – That is for the preparation of the application and as a 1st time grantee the Town is allowed to expend \$6,000.00 of that \$100,000 on grant preparation costs. Basically, the grant will pay those fees. Mr. Valanzola – Is that the same in the future? Mr. Darragh – In the future, when you are no longer a 1st year grantee you are allowed to retain \$3,000.00 towards the cost of grant writing. Therefore, in future years there may be a small cost to the Town. The work is typically priced on how complicated the work is being submitted. Mr. Valanzola – Is there still a lot of grant money out there? Mr. Darragh – Beyond the Community Development Block Grant funds there are some other monies available for specific programs there are some other economic development funds. Mr. Llewellyn – Brad left us a note that he recommended hiring these folks. His office is not staffed to handle the reams of paperwork this involves. The contract will be on the table for the Chairman's signature.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee that we hire Communities Opportunities Group, Inc.

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Ryan that we authorize the Chairman to execute the contract

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

2. Public Hearing – Application for Liquor License for 7-Eleven

Motion: Mr. Pratt to open hearing for 7-Eleven (Wine & Malt License)

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

Explanation by attorney: this was on a tax hold from the previous owner and not renewed at the end of the year. All taxes have been paid and they are reapplying for this license. New owner Satyanarayana Chandana was asked questions by the BOS.

Motion: Mr. Ryan to close the hearing for 7-Eleven

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Ryan to approve a Wine & Malt License for 7-Eleven

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

C. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

3. Application for Class II License – Southeastern Auto Rockland

No representative present.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to table

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

Will be added to agenda of next meeting.

4. Application for Toll Booths – Rockland SPED PAC

Mr. Llewellyn read letter from Susan Matthews from Rockland SPED PAC. Toll Booth requested for Saturday, May 14th from 9AM-3PM at sites to be Determined with the assistance of the Rockland Police Department. Chief Donovan – Everything is all squared away. Hingham Street will be SPED, Centre Ave will be SSVTHS and Webster Street will be SPED.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve May 14th for SPED PAC Toll Booth

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 5-0

D. TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT - NONE

E. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Llewellyn read letter from Mr. & Mrs. Carl Umbrianna thanking the Rockland Fire Department for their assistance at a recent fire in their home. They took the time to provide the guidance and support we so needed on a human level. We commend them and thank each of them from the bottom of our hearts.

Letter was read from Captain Calvin L. Howard U.S. Navy Supply Corps on behalf of Eric Sepeck. Eric is providing combat service/logistics support to U.S. and Coalition war fighters here in the Middle East engaged in OIF and the Global War on Terrorism. Specifically our group has moved of 110,000 pieces of equipment on over 50 cargo ships in and out of theater at the Seaport of Ash Shuaiba, Kuwait; issued/received over 50 million gallons of fuel at two fuel farms in Iraq; constructed the largest fuel facility in northern Iraq; and provided postal service, moving over one million pieces of mail at Army post offices throughout Kuwait. Eric has been a major contributor to our Group's success. In perspective, the volume of equipment and war fighter movements has been the largest since World War II. Without the support of this outstanding citizen sailor we could not have been successful. Thank you for your support, understanding and the sacrifice your organization is making while Eric is away doing the U.S. military's work. Your employee, Eric, is making a difference, as are you.

F. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Chaffee – Read a letter sent out by the Selectmen’s office regarding departments/commissions/boards that did not submit their information for the Annual Town Report that was due on February 1, 2005. Please send this information to the Selectmen’s Office immediately if you want to be included in the 2004 Annual Town Report. The following did not submit information:

Assessors	Park Department
Community Center	School Department
Conservation Commission	Open Space Committee
Emergency Management	Teen Center
Board of Health	Town Clerk
Highway Department	Tree Warden
Historical Commission	Zoning Board of Appeals
Light Up Rockland Committee	Planning Board

We have extended the deadline, however, the absolute last date to submit anything for inclusion is February 22nd.

As everyone knows, we have had a record snow fall (100 year storm). We have received a lot of complaints about school being cancelled, snow plowing, sidewalks, etc. To kick this off I think everyone has to understand that the Highway Department is staffed by five (5) men. To give you an example....the Town of Abington has fourteen men (14). The Town of Abington has four (4) sidewalk plows...the Town of Rockland has one (1) and it was broken (it hit a trash barrel hidden in the snow). I think it took this emergency to see that the Highway Department is way understaffed. Hopefully people will recognize this and steps will be taken to put the Highway Department in a position that they are funded correctly and with enough men to do things right. Our Highway Superintendent is understaffed and needs our support and considering the avalanche of snow we received I don’t think they did a bad job. Mr. Llewellyn – I was out in the storm with the Chief and all things considered, I think Mr. Corvi did an outstanding job. I’d heard from a number of people that Rockland roads were some of the clearest throughout the South Shore. Most of the complaints we received were concerning the sidewalks and the areas around the schools. I want to make it clear that Mr. Corvi is the Highway Superintendent...he is not charged with clearing the snow at the schools. Mr. Corvi did the absolute best job he could and then some. The schools do not have large snow plows and trucks. They did an adequate job clearing the best they could. Maybe this is the storm that is going to make us reflect on our decisions and look down the road regarding getting more equipment for the Highway Department. Mr. Ryan – It seems like we have a 100-year snow storm every ten years. Again, the Town was shut down for five days...most big cities were also. It is very hard to please everyone regarding snow. I think the Highway Department did a real good job. I happened to get down there a couple times during the storm and we

brought food down for the guys because they were out there working night and day. If people want things in this Town government, you have to get out and support us at Town Meeting so we'll have a adequate number of people and equipment for our departments. If you want more...get involved as citizens. It's not all on the elected officials. Mr. Valanzola – I think Mr. Corvi did a pretty good job on the roads. One of the issues I have is that Bob has to fight for his department. He has to insist on a few things to get the job done. One sidewalk plow is not acceptable for a Town this size. Hopefully at Town Meeting he will put in for one or two sidewalk plows. Another thing is that a lot of people think they can pile the snow up on the sidewalk. If they have private people plow they should ask them to move the snow further back so that the sidewalk plow will be able to clear an area without having to go through eight feet of snow. Hopefully you will come out and vote for this issue at Town Meeting. Mr. Pratt – With everyone piling the snow on the sidewalks, Mr. Corvi was forced to use an excavator to get the piles of snow before he could even use the sidewalk plow. This also slowed him down. The machine was breaking down every 50 to 100 yards. I know a lot of people were upset because they felt that he did the business district before addressing the schools. Union Street is where you have to start before you can do the secondary roads. Having the children walking up Union Street, over the snow banks, around the cars is definitely hazardous. You have to have a starting point and I think Mr. Corvi did the right thing by addressing Union Street first. There is a by-law in Town that I don't think many people are aware of that states "you are responsible for the walkway in front of your house". That is not Town property...it is your property. If you pile snow up there it only hinders our efforts to get the equipment down there. To have one snow blower, five men and one front end loader it was a monumental task that they completed. Ultimately it comes down to Town Meeting. It is up to the people of Rockland to decide what services they want and how much service they want. If you continually under fund a department you are going to get the services you fund. FYI..that sidewalk plow is 11 years old. I think Mr. Corvi did the best he could with what he has and what we gave him.

Mr. Ryan – Thank you to all the kind people who have stopped me on the street and said "Thank you for your service to the Town of Rockland". I appreciate the comments and I was surprised at how many people watch the BOS Meeting being televised on Monday nights. To all you people....keep watching and support your Town. Thank you.

Mr. Valanzola – There has been some confusion in regard to the cable TV license that we signed last year. There are some misconceptions with some of the provisions in that license. If anyone has any questions feel free to call me.

Mr. Pratt – I don't think the boys at the Fire House can have enough praise said about them. I did witness that fire up on Union Street. I think they did a phenomenal job.

Mr. Chaffee – Chief Sammon, did you send out letters thanking every Town for their help during that fire. Chief Sammon – Yes – All the Towns were sent out letters. Brockton covered the Station, Hanson covered the station, Hanover sent two engines to the scene, Abington & Norwell were at the scene. We were very fortunate for all the help we had.

Andy Triantaffelow – I think Mr. Corvi does a marvelous job for what he has but if he can clean the center he can clean the sidewalks for the kids to walk. Before I would clean the center I would clean the sidewalks first. I know we only have one plow but we can rent more plows. If you went to a “rent all” center you can get all different kinds of things. I blame one group. That is the Finance Committee. Every time Bob puts in for anything they cut him. They cut his manpower, they cut his services and he’s just banging his head against the wall. I think it’s about time that someone takes on the Finance Committee and say look...either you start giving us the services, you cut the Fire Department, you cut the Police Department, you cut the Highway Department and you cut everything else. We are still broke not matter what we do. I have another thing to bring up. Larry, you took on the School Department. I hope we don’t go back to the old ways where the School Department gets everything and the Town gets nothing. I know you and John are leaving. You made a comment that you are working on a van for the senior center. I hope before you leave you give us that van. I know there is money there regardless of what Mr. DeWald says. Reach in the pocket and take the money out...buy the van or rent the van or give us a van that is half-way decent. That thing keeps breaking down and it’s just a waste of time. Bob Corvi and his mechanics are always fixing that van. I would appreciate it before you leave if you give us the van you promised us. We are going to miss you two. I really appreciate all that you two have done.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to adjourn at 7:58PM

Second: Mr. Valanzola

**Vote: 5-0 Mr. Ryan – yes, Mr. Valanzola – yes, Mr. Chaffee – yes, Mr. Pratt – yes
and Mr. Llewellyn - yes**

**LAWRENCE J. CHAFFEE
VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**BRADLEY A. PLANTE
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**